

SITUATION REPORT NO. 7
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 17, 1997 TIME: 11:30 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: As snow removal efforts continue, county and N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) drivers are becoming fatigued from long work shifts. Many have had very few days off since November. The N.D. DOT is working on finding qualified replacement drivers.

North Dakota experienced early morning wind chills of 35 to 60 below on January 17. The National Weather Service forecasts sunny, but cold conditions with temperatures rising to 10 above. The forecast for January 18 calls for a 30 percent chance of light snow or light freezing rain. Highs may reach 35 degrees.

Many roadways in the state are still reduced to one-lane routes.

Rural water system customers in southern Emmons County are still without service as workers try to repair the system.

The N.D. Department of Agriculture received eight additional requests on January 16 for assistance from farmers, bringing the total to 30. Concerns include: farm buildings that have collapsed under heavy snow; milk dumping; snow removal problems; and, difficulties supplying livestock with feed.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: Six Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff members have established a temporary Disaster Field Office (DFO) at Fraine Barracks. The DFO staff can be reached at (701) 224-5988 and (701) 224-5986.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In response to Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1157-DR-ND, Roger Free and Lou Ramirez of FEMA's Region VIII Office have been named Federal Coordinating Officer and Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer, respectively.

The Governor's Office will distribute a listing of county emergency managers to State Legislators to assist senators and representatives in addressing constituent concerns.

The U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force have assigned state Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers to the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in support of disaster operations. These officers will provide liaison between the state and the Department of Defense in procurement of snow removal assets and personnel as requested.

The N.D. National Guard and the U.S. Air Force, Grand Forks and Minot Bases, have 24 snow removal missions underway that are staffed by 118 Army Guard personnel, six Air Guard members and 18 Air Force members. New Air Force missions are as follows: Burleigh County, one snow blower; Stutsman County, one snow blower; and Ward County, one snow blower. In addition, two Air Force snow blowers have been assigned to the N.D. DOT. New National Guard missions are as follow: Barnes County, one loader; and Carrington-Foster County, five dump trucks, one dozer, one tractor-trailer and one loader. National Guard equipment was enroute January 17 to Wishek-McIntosh County. Because of blocked roads, the National Guard used a helicopter to transport a six-person crew from Pingree to Pettibone, where equipment was located. A helicopter was also used to take two personnel from Bismarck to Devils Lake, where they transported a bull dozer to Adams County.

N.D. DOT crews are operating 28 rotary snow plows, nine of which have been procured from military sources and one from a private source. District offices in the north and west report that snow accumulations from the January 15 blizzard did not present major problems for snow removal efforts.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Feed Grain Donation Program has been implemented. All persons with agricultural-related interests are advised to contact county Farm Service Agency Offices for information and details.

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission is conducting an assessment to determine the storm's impact on emergency services by municipal airports. The Commission has indicated at least 46 airports provide emergency services, such as medical flights.

A Cass County motorist was rescued January 15 by a private citizen after her vehicle became stuck in a snow drift west of Argusville.

The city of Bismarck has issued a Disaster Declaration. To date, 49 of the state's 53 counties, 11 cities and one Indian Reservation have issued storm-related declarations.

A LaMoure County snow plow cleared the path for an ambulance transporting a pregnant woman to a Jamestown hospital. The baby was born 20 minutes after the ambulance arrived at the hospital.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Local contractors are needed to help with snow removal efforts. Interested contractors should contact Sherry Nies of the N.D. DOT at (701) 328-4466.
- 8: OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director